

The excess of carbide, when water is added after cooling, will loosen the solid mass in the bottom of the flask so that the flask can be easily cleaned.

800cc. out of a liter has been recovered as absolute alcohol. This will mix with the usual xylol without milkiness. It has a rather offensive odor of acetylene, but is far cheaper than the absolute alcohol from supply houses and quicker than making absolute from lime.

S. R. WILLIAMS, Oxford, Ohio.

#### A CONVENIENT REAGENT CASE

A sectional bookcase has been found most useful for keeping the reagents and appliances used in microscopy free from dust. The case stands at the side of my work table in a corner. The third (13 in.) section from the floor, at the level of the table, is the one which holds the dehydration series and staining jars. In the sections above and below this are slide boxes, metric apparatus, drawing materials and a dissecting microscope.

The short distance needed by the doors for swinging allows me to sit at the work table and reach into most of the sections.

There is also less danger of upsetting jars when they are not on the table in front of you.

The reagent shelf of the bookcase should have all varnish removed as alcohol running down the sides of the bottles softens the varnish and causes the bottles to stick. S. R. WILLIAMS.

#### CULTURES OF SAPROLEGNIA

A very satisfactory method of cultivating and handling the various species of *Saprolegnia*, *Achlya*, and other of the water-molds, particularly suitable for allowing individual study in large classes, is as follows:

1. Secure bottom-ooze from a number of ponds or lakes, etc., if no infested materials are at hand. Place in these cultures a few flies, that have been immersed in alcohol for disinfection and then thoroly rinsed in water.

2. When any of these begin to show signs of the saprophytes, as a whitish halo, remove the flies to watch glasses half full of water for observation, one fly to each vessel.